
CENTRAL REGIONAL COUNCIL ON WORKFORCE SERVICES
Department of Workforce Services
1385 South State Street, Salt Lake City, Utah 84115
Monthly Meeting Minutes
Thursday, August 24, 2006
12:30 p.m.

Presiding: Paul Jackson, Chair

Present: Kent Anderson, LaRay Brown, Aida Castrillo, Greg Diven,
Norman Fitzgerald, Tony Gomez, Ben Graham, John Hill,
Parley Jacobs for Stephen Ronnenkamp, Nancy Malecker, Jill Merritt,
Jon Pierpont, Steven Rosenberg, Kevin Schofield, Karen Silver,
Gordon Swensen

Absent: Colleen Fraser, Douglas Johnston, Akilah Messado, Melva Sine
Ballard Veater, Ali Wilkinson, Julie Zimmerman

Excused: Allan Ayoub, Councilman Jim Bradley, Charles Daud,
Sen. Brent Goodfellow, Commissioner Colleen Johnson,
Dr. Stephen Ronnenkamp, Kerry Steadman, Susan Smith

Guests: Heidi Ballif-Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce, Mike Richardson-DWS
Director of Intergovernmental Relations, State Council &
Communications, Leslee Hintze-Governor's Committee/Employment of
People With Disabilities, Linda Skinner-Salt Lake Applied Tech College
Robert Parenti-Utah Safety Council

Staff: Karla Aguirre, Steve Leyba, Diane Lovell, Laurel Morris, Mary Peterson,
Ken Serre, Robyn Thomas, Yvette Woodland

Chairman Paul Jackson called the meeting to order at 12:35 pm. He began by introducing the following guests:

- Heidi Ballif, Vice President-Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce;
- Mike Richardson, Director of Intergovernmental Relations-State Council & Communications who will present later on in the meeting; and,
- Ken Serre, Manager- Midvale Employment Center.

Mr. Jackson also recognized Linda Fife who is leaving to take the position of Executive Dean at Florida Community College of Jacksonville. Ms. Fife has been involved as an active member of Council since May 2004, a member of the Executive Committee, Co-Chair of the Training & Development Committee and a leader on the Executive Roundtable. She has helped to raise the understanding of the Applied Technology College approach to education. Mr. Jackson wished her much success in her new position.

1. Approval of Minutes

Paul Jackson asked for a motion to approve the following minutes:

- June 22, 2006 Regional Council Meeting
- July 13, 2006 Executive Committee Meeting

John Hill motioned to approve the above minutes as written. Steven Rosenberg seconded the motion. All voted “Aye”. Karen Silver abstained. The motion passed. Susan Smith voted electronically in favor of this motion.

2. Approval of New Member Nominees

Paul Jackson asked for a vote to approve the following individuals as members of Central Region Council:

- Colleen Fraser, EDCU (replacing Stephanie Frohman)
- Gordon Swensen, Utah Office of Rehabilitation (replacing Russ Thelin)

All voted “Aye”. The new members were approved. Susan Smith voted electronically in favor of this motion.

3. Training Provider Applications

Two Training Provider Applications have been received and reviewed. Linda Fife asked for a motion to approve the following:

- Utah Safety Council
- Mortgage Education Connection

Norman Fitzgerald motioned to approve the applications and then forward them to the State Council for final approval. John Hill seconded the motion. All voted “Aye”. The motion carried. Susan Smith voted electronically in favor of this motion.

4. Basic Needs Help Desk – Karen Silver

Karen Silver provided a Help Desk Report on activities from March-May, 2006. Ms. Silver noted that they are seeing less people, which is a positive sign that more are employed. However, there is still a housing and utility crisis. She also indicated that most of the comments from customers were related to state or federal policy rather than local guidelines. Ms. Silver also provided a brief overview of how the Help Desk originated noting that she started this program approximately 5-1/2 years ago as a way to outreach in the Central Region and to provide an opportunity to help DWS and our customers. She visits each office once a month for a half day except when the Legislature is in session.

When asked about the housing concern, Ms. Silver noted there is a small transition to home ownership component and that mainly involves helping customers with budget and financial issues associated with home ownership. Guidance is also provided on funding resources and how to access them.

5. Executive Roundtable Report – Greg Diven

Greg Diven reported on the MotorFest that will be held on September 27th and 28th at the Salt Lake Community College Miller Campus. A Family Night for parents is scheduled

on September 28th from 6:30-8:30 pm. Planning continues for this career oriented event and at least 2,000 high school students are expected.

On September 26th a meeting will be held to give educators an update on the automotive curriculum revisions and other related changes that have taken place over the last few months. A pilot is underway to determine if applied math and science courses can fill the curriculum requirements the Legislature has established.

The Construction Roundtable has been scheduled for November 1st beginning at 7:15 am. It will be held at 1385 South State, Room 157A. A draft agenda and work plan has been developed.

The next Manufacturing Roundtable may involve taking a new look at targeted industry clusters and skill trades. More information will be provided at the September 28th Meeting.

6. DWS 2007 Legislative Preview – Mike Richardson

Mike Richardson shared background on:

1. **Medicaid Study Group** that is looking at public assistance programs. A \$20M cut was taken last year in Medicaid that needs to be addressed. Cost cutting will be necessary.
2. **Spending Cap** – There is a statutory formula there is only \$30M under the cap that is available.

Budget Priorities

1. **General Assistance Money** – This is being presented to the Governor at \$2.4M with a recommendation for it to be ongoing.
2. **Childcare Money** –\$3.4M is being submitted with a recommendation for it to be ongoing.

Legislation

Mr. Richardson went on to report that there is a bill that reverses an action for a Social Security offset that will be discussed in greater detail later in the fall. He also indicated that the reauthorization of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) will impact our Family Employment Program (FEP) and an overview will be presented to the Legislature during its interim meeting in September.

Paul Jackson noted that in the past, the Council has had a legislative breakfast where Senators and Representatives have been invited and he wanted to know if this type of event is helpful to the Department or if another option would be more viable.

Mr. Richardson indicated that Executive staff are presenting to the Commerce and Revenue Appropriations Committee at the end of the month and suggested the Council wait until after that time and after the November elections to determine how best to contact and work with legislators on behalf of the Department. Mr. Richardson offered to

assist with putting together another legislative breakfast forum should the Council decide to host one late in the year.

Kevin Schofield asked if it would be beneficial to hold a get together on “their” (legislator’s) turf. Mr. Richardson felt continuing with a legislative connection meeting may still be beneficial; however, it should be scheduled soon after the elections.

Mr. Jackson summarized that Council wants to hold a legislative connection meeting of some type and he will get together with Mr. Richardson to plan this meeting for sometime right after the election. Mike Richardson noted that a package of materials is being prepared for each legislator noting what services are provided in each area and suggested that this information could be shared at the legislative connection meeting.

7. Regional Director Presentation – DWS Update – Jon Pierpont

Jon Pierpont, Regional Director presented a 45 minute PowerPoint presentation that outlined the Department’s strategic direction and specific plans for Eligibility Modernization. He noted that better and different ways of doing business are being considered in order to increase efficiencies. For example, General Fund availability is \$2.4M less than in past years. We have to figure out how to continue to provide necessary and quality services with diminishing revenues.

Mr. Pierpont shared the proposed Eligibility Modernization Model including the key objectives and the potential cost savings and services benefits to be realized. The model, which involves an increased use of technology, would be phased-in, with full implementation in 2009.

Paul Jackson noted that understanding the significance of these changes is important, as they will impact employers. From the employer’s perspective, Mr. Jackson indicated that the working relationship with DWS is important to keep strong.

8. Chairman’s Report – Paul Jackson

Chairman Jackson reported on the following:

- September 28th Council Meeting will be held at the Larry H. Miller Campus in the Miller Free Enterprise Center Building located at 9750 South 300 West, Sandy, Utah.
- State Council on July 20th was held at the SLCC Skills Center. Tani Downing presented a high level overview of many activities and initiatives relevant to our Council. Greg Diven was acknowledged for his work as past Council Chair as well as his efforts statewide with the Executive Roundtables.
- Council of Councils is set for October 12th. A tentative agenda is prepared and Mr. Jackson encouraged everyone to save the date and attend. The theme is “Growing a Healthy Workforce”. If there are any topics for breakout sessions that Council members would like to discuss and/or review, please send those suggestions to Paul Jackson, John Hill, or Diane Lovell.
- Mr. Jackson also reported that our vendor to serve youth is Salt Lake County, and they administer the Youth EmployAbility Services (YES) Program. The current

5-year contract is subject to annual, performance-based renewals. On August 21st, the Youth Council approved a recommendation to extend the YES Program contract for one year.

- Labor Day is coming up shortly and Chairman Jackson asked that we remember the history of this day and what it represents.
- Council Membership Survey Results –Mr. Jackson noted a few outcomes and conclusions from the survey, including:
 - Allowing more time to discuss policy issues. The Chair will try to create this time noting that everyone will need to be prepared beforehand. More information will be sent electronically for review prior to the meetings.
 - It was suggested that we discuss only 1 or 2 key topics at each meeting, such as:
 - Better understanding the operations from the Director’s perspective.
 - Dynamics and challenges associated with vendor approvals
 - Rotating meeting locations. We will experiment with the next meeting, which will be held at the Larry Miller Campus.
 - Twice a year, each committee will provide an in-depth report to the Council. Mr. Jackson asked that the Chairs of each committee prepare for their presentation.

Lastly, Chairman Jackson expressed that everyone is very committed and wanting to make a difference and he thanked Council for their efforts to make things better. He stated that the Council’s role is to help DWS fulfill their mission in our region. As we prepare our strategic plan we need to consider doing it in such a way that it helps drive the agenda and helps address the challenges faced by Jon Pierpont and his team.

9. Old Business

There was no old business to report.

10. New Business

Karen Silver reported that the Basic Needs Committee met today and it was suggested that a proposal for legislation be considered giving a tax incentive to businesses that offer basic skills and basic education training. Ms. Silver asked Greg Diven to present this suggestion at a Roundtable meeting to, “See if this would be something that would work.”

11. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 pm.